

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TOKYO 04728 110416Z

21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /077 W

----- 086391

R 110340Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9236

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 4728

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: KAIIN ALLIANCE WITH SOHYO HARBOR GROUP

REF: (A) TOKYO 1563

(B) TOKYO 4702

SUMMARY IN AN ATTEMPT TO BOLSTER SPRING WAGE STRUGGLE BAR-GAINING POSITIONS, DEMEI-AFFILIATED KAIIN (SEAMAN'S UNION; 154,000) AND SOHYO-AFFILIATED ZENKOKU KOWAN (COUNCIL OF PORT AND HARBOR TRANSPORT WORKERS' UNIONS; 78,000) HAVE AGREED TO STUDY POSSIBILITY OF JOINT ACTION. THOUGH TWO OR THREE DAY JOINT SHIPPING TIEUP IS POSSIBLE IF KAIIN CANNOT REACH AGREEMENT WITH MANAGEMENT BEFORE COMPLETION OF ITS STRIKE VOTE APRIL 23, THE DECLINING POWER OF KAIIN (REFTEL A) AS WELL AS EXPERIENCE OF A FINANCIALLY DRAINING 90-DAY STRIKE IN 1972 WOULD INDICATE THAT A PROLONGED STRIKE IS NOT LIKELY. END SUMMARY.

1. FOR FIRST TIME SINCE ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM SOHYO DOMINATED ZENKOUN (COUNCIL OF TRANSPORT WORKERS'S UNIONS; 860,000) FIVE YEARS AGO, DOMEI-AFFILAITED KAIIN HAS MOVED INTO SEM-BLANCE OF ALLIANCE, ALBEIT STILL A PAPER ONE, WITH RELATED SOHYO HARBOR WORKERS' UNION COUNCIL. THOUGH KAIIN AND ZENKOWAN LEADERS HAVE AGREED TO STUDY POSSIBLE COORDINATED SPRING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TOKYO 04728 110416Z

STRUGGLE ACTION, KIHATA (KAIIN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER AND DIRECTRO

OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPT) DESCRIBED KAIIN/
ZENKOKU KOWAN RELATIONSHIP AS "PURELY THERETICAL" AT THIS STAGE
HOWEVER, HE CAUTIONED THAT JOINT ACTION IS POSSIBLE IF KAIIN
WAGE SETTLEMENT IS NOT REACHED BY ABOUT APRIL 20, WHEN RESULT
OF AKKIN STRIKE VOTE SHOULD BE APPARENT. KIHATA ACKNOWLEDGED
THAT CONDITION OF INDUSTRY "OBJECTIVELY" RULES OUT LONG-STRIKE.
APPARENTLY
DEJECTED BY PACE-SETTING 15 PERCENT STEEL MANAGEMENT OFFER (REFTELB).
KIHATA SAID KAIIN LEADERSHIP EXPECTS TO DO "A LITTLE BETTER THAN
15 PERCENT." (THOUGH SHIPBOARD BONUS SYSTEM MAKES COMPARISON WITH
FACTORY WAGES DIFFICULT, KAIIN THIS YEAR HAS DEMANDED OVER
40 PERCENT INCREASE FOR OCEAN-GOING SHIP CREWS..)

2. KIHATA ALSO COMMENTED ON SHIPOWNERS' ASSOCIATION'S LATE MARCH
NOTICE TO KAIIN THAT OWNERS PLAN TO PHASE OUT TRAMP STEAMSHIP
OPERATIONS TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, ULTIMATELY INVOLVING
LOSS OF 9,000 JOBS. SHIPOWNERS CLAIM SURPLUS OF BOTTOMS, RISING
WAGES OF JAPANESE SEAMEN AND CONSEQUENT LOSS OF COMPETITIV-
ENESS HAVE FORCED THIS DECISION. KIHATA HEDGED BETWEEN ASSER-
TION THAT SHIPOWNERS' ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCEMENT MAY BE A
BARGAINING PLOY AND ADMISSION THAT MANAGEMENT DECISION MAY BE
FOR REAL, BUT KAIIN CLEARLY ON DEFENSIVE ON THIS ISSUE
WHICH HAS POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUSLY COMPLICATING BASIC WAGE
NEGOTIATIONS.

3. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS'
FEDERATION TOKYO REPRESENTATIVE MASUDA SAID HE BELIEVES KAIIN
JOINT STRIKE ACTION ZENKOKU KOWAN OF TWO OR THREE DAY
DURATION IS POSSIBLE IF KAIIN AND SHIPOWNERS'S ASSOCIATION
NEGOTIATIONS STALL. HE SAID THAT EXPERIENCE OF 90-DAY 1972
STRIKE DURING WHICH SOHYO HARBOR WORKERS UNIONS CONTINUED
TO WORK FOREIGN BOTTOMS HAS CONVINCED KAIIN LEADERS THAT THEY
MUST PLAN FOR JOINT ACTION.

4. COMMENT: KIHATA IS MODERATE AND TENDS TO UNDERSTATE KAIIN'S
MOVEMENT TOWARD GREATER MILITANCY. THOUGH PROLONGED STRIKE NOT AT
AT ALL LIKELY, KAIIN WITH ITS SLIPPING MEMBERSHIP (6,000
LOST THIS YEAR) IN BOTH STEAMSHIP AND FISHING DEPARTMENTS
CAN BE EXPECTED TO LOOK INCREASINGLY
TO NATURAL ALLIES IN SOHYO AFFILIATED HARBOR
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TOKYO 04728 110416Z

WORKERS' GROUP.
SHOESMITH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, ALLIANCE, LABOR UNIONS, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO04728
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750126-0444
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750456/aaaabzzi.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TOKYO 1563
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KAIIN ALLIANCE WITH SOHYO HARBOR GROUP
TAGS: ELAB, JA, KAIIN, SOHYO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006